

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the passage from page 14, line 19 through page 15, line 3 as follows:

as
Switching assemblies 90 may include a variety of types of electronic switching devices configured in a number of different topologies. A topology of an exemplary switching assembly 90 is illustrated diagrammatically in Fig. 5. Switching assembly 90 couples a drive 101 (e.g. amplifier 96) to a load 103 (e.g. gradient coil 42). The conductive state of the switching assembly 90 is controlled by a control circuit 105 (e.g. control circuit 40). Switching assembly 90 includes a switching device 102 which, when enabled by control circuit 40, transitions between conductive and non-conductive states to provide a current-carrying path between drive 101 and load 102. In the embodiment illustrated, switching assembly 90 also includes a steering circuit 104 to steer the current between the drive 101 and the load 103 in the event that switching device 102 cannot conduct current in a linear, or uninterrupted, manner. Thus, in applications in which linear conduction of current is a concern, steering circuit 104 ensures that a current-carrying path is provided between drive 101 and load 103 for the entire duration of any current flow, regardless of the magnitude of the current. The incorporation of the steering circuit 104 thus advantageously allows many different types of switching devices 102 to be used, such as transistors, diodes, etc.

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-28 were rejected. By the present Response, claims 4 and 24 are cancelled without prejudice, and claims 1, 10, 18 and 23 are amended. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1-3, 5-23 and 25-28 will remain pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.